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Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 6 August 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the joint statement adopted by the participants of the seventh general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions, which was held at Headquarters on 22 and 23 July 2013 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under sub-item (e) of agenda item 122 and as a document of the Security Council pursuant to resolutions 1631 (2005) and 1809 (2008), in particular paragraph 17 of resolution 1809 (2008).

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Joint statement of the seventh general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community

22 and 23 July 2013, New York

1. The seventh general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and its associated institutions was held at United Nations Headquarters, in New York, on 22 and 23 July 2013. Opening remarks were given by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, and the Secretary-General of CARICOM, Irwin LaRocque. The meeting, which enjoyed wide participation from representatives of the United Nations system and from representatives of the CARICOM secretariat and its associated institutions, was co-chaired by the Chief of the Americas Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations, Martha Doggett, and the Assistant Secretary-General, Foreign and Community Relations, of the CARICOM secretariat, Colin Granderson. Closing remarks were delivered by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Jan Eliasson.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations congratulated CARICOM on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary and welcomed the opportunity to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations. He thanked CARICOM countries for their leadership in raising the world's awareness on climate change, the particular challenges of small island developing States and the issue of non-communicable diseases. He commended the role played by CARICOM during the negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty. The Secretary-General reiterated his concern about the challenges faced by the region, such as the negative effects of climate change and organized crime. He highlighted the region's strong sense of solidarity and expressed his gratitude for the role played by CARICOM as an advocate for Haiti. He welcomed consideration, during the meeting, of the current mechanisms for the United Nations to cooperate with the CARICOM secretariat and its associated institutions as a way to reinforce the existing partnership between the two organizations.

3. The Secretary-General of CARICOM expressed appreciation to the United Nations and its agencies for their strong collaboration with institutions of the Community in accordance with regional objectives. He reiterated the importance of the biennial encounters between CARICOM and the United Nations to address priority areas that would yield tangible benefits to the citizens of the Community, in particular at a time when the world was contemplating a future beyond the Millennium Development Goals and was preparing for the post-2015 development agenda, which was of paramount importance to the region. He underscored citizen security, non-communicable diseases and climate change as among the critical areas in which the United Nations and CARICOM had forged enduring and important partnerships. He highlighted the importance of the Arms Trade Treaty, adopted under the auspices of the United Nations, in particular the provisions to stem the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons. The Secretary-General also drew attention to the impact of the protracted global financial and economic crisis, exacerbated by onerous debt, and graduation from access to concessionary development funding, resulting in an unfavourable prognosis for the economic

growth of CARICOM countries. In that regard, he underscored the importance of reliable, accessible and sufficient financing for development and of deepening CARICOM-United Nations collaboration to build capacity in pursuit of sustainable development in the Caribbean region.

4. As part of the effort to review progress in the implementation of decisions made since the sixth general meeting, held in July 2011, participants heard a presentation on the new coordination mechanism for United Nations programmatic assistance in the Caribbean. That mechanism was established as a follow-up to the sixth general meeting and is led by the United Nations Development Group team for Latin America and the Caribbean, whose Chair, Heraldo Muñoz, briefed meeting participants.

5. The United Nations Development Group team for Latin America and the Caribbean had been conducting internal consultations in preparation for working in partnership with the CARICOM secretariat and its associated institutions, to improve coherence and effectiveness in joint activities and determine a regional approach that would address the specific needs and challenges of the Caribbean. To that end, the team had prepared two reports that were discussed at a meeting between United Nations and CARICOM officials held in Georgetown in October 2012. The team and the CARICOM secretariat agreed to engage in further consultations on, inter alia, three priority areas for future collaboration proposed by the team: climate change and the environment; institutional strengthening; and human security. The United Nations advised that technical working groups of relevant United Nations entities had been established and were currently preparing proposals for joint initiatives aimed at maximizing progress in priority areas, strengthening collaboration and improving development efforts in the Caribbean region. Those initiatives would also provide an opportunity to move towards a more coherent engagement in the organizations' long-standing partnership. The team and CARICOM agreed to engage in further discussions on a range of priorities, such as non-communicable diseases. The issues of sustainable tourism and transportation were also raised. The two entities also agreed to jointly examine levels and appropriate modalities for consultation and the sharing of critical information.

6. Given the priority areas on which the United Nations and the CARICOM secretariat had agreed to collaborate under the new coordination mechanism, at the seventh general meeting specific sessions were devoted to dialogue on those issues. In addition, special attention was paid to the post-2015 development agenda, the situation of small island developing States, including the preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in 2014, and the link between the two. On the post-2015 development agenda, the Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, Amina Mohammed, briefed meeting participants on the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the way forward for the sustainable development goals. CARICOM underlined the challenges facing small, vulnerable, middle-income countries and the importance of building resilience to attain sustainable development.

7. Other key issues that were discussed in depth at the meeting were the regional challenges regarding transnational organized crime, citizen security and the impact of crime on children, youth and women. United Nations support to the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy 2013 was outlined. In addition, the importance of

promoting agricultural development and adopting measures to ensure food and nutrition security in the region, as well as the role of information and communications technology for development, including through the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network, as a powerful tool and catalyst for change and sustainable development, were emphasized.

8. CARICOM provided an update on the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, including the core regimes and priority initiatives being pursued to advance the development of the region. CARICOM placed emphasis on the issue of regional growth and initiatives to address some of the development challenges. This new framework for growth and development required a resource mobilization strategy that emphasized non-traditional sources of financing and a public investment programme that would unleash the growth potential of targeted sectors in the CARICOM region. CARICOM had also embarked on a three-year change management process that should result in a transformed secretariat with strategic focus and implementation capacity, a five-year strategic plan for the Community and reform of regional institutions.

9. Participants acknowledged that the seventh general meeting had achieved its goal of strengthening the existing partnership between the two organizations and identifying ways to maximize progress in priority areas of cooperation.